

4422(3) LUTON

Luton Rural District Council.

ANNUAL
REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR 1948.

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To the Luton Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1948.

The Chairman & Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Statistical Report on the health of the district for the year 1948.

There is little in the report that requires comment and on the whole it was a healthy year. It is noteworthy that no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk to the Council and the Sanitary Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Luton.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

1. Vital Statistics.

Area of district, 48,590 acres.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	...	18,600
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	...	...	...	...	6,218
Rateable value as at 1st April	...	...	...	...	73,101
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£305
Number of new houses erected :					
(a) Council	...	...	...	...	123
(b) Private enterprise	...	...	...	...	27

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1948 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births :

Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...

Total	M	F
339	179	160
320	169	151
19	10	9
18.2		

Still Births :

Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	...

Total	M	F
8	3	5
2	1	1
28.7		

Deaths :

Death Rate per 1,000 of population
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Total	M	F
211	100	111
11.3		

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1948.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	...	14	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	41.0
Legitimate	...	13	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	40.6
Illegitimate	...	1	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	52.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	28

2. Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for the last 7 years are as follows:—

1942	18,190
1943	17,480
1944	17,590
1945	17,250
1946	17,630
1947	18,110
1948	18,600

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows:—

1942	6.7
1943	7.3
1944	8.5
1945	6.8
1946	9.1
1947	8.9
1948	6.9

3 & 4. Birth and Death Rates.

Year	Population	Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England & Wales	Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate for England & Wales
1942	18,190	332	17.8	15.8	202	11.1	11.6
1943	17,480	319	18.2	16.5	192	10.9	12.1
1944	17,590	353	20.1	17.6	204	11.6	11.6
1945	17,250	293	16.9	16.1	174	10.1	11.4
1946	17,630	340	19.3	19.1	178	10.2	11.5
1947	18,110	364	20.1	20.5	202	11.2	12.0
1948	18,600	339	18.2	17.9	211	11.3	10.8

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES. ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

							LUTON RURAL DISTRICT.	ENGLAND AND WALES.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Births :							* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Live	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.2	17.9‡	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.43	0.42‡	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths :											
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.3	10.8‡	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.86	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.43	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
							Rates per 1,000 live births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	34‡	39	32	31
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.9	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
Notifications :							Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.34	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.79	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.44	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.27	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(a) Notifications :							Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	}	6.89	8.90	4.71	{ 0.61 φ7.34
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Maternal Mortality :											
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	...	...	...	...	...	...	}	0.13	0.11	0.05	}
Abortion with Sepsis (No. 140)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abortion without Sepsis (No. 141)	...	...	...	...	...	...	}	0.73	0.05	0.05	}
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1.02	Not available		

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths or notifications.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 total population.

φ Including Puerperal Fever.

6. Infant Mortality.

The following table shows deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

	Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity and debility from birth	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Birth injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronco-pneumonia	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	3
Accidental	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Suppurative parotitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	6	1	—	1	8	2	4	—	—	14

DEATHS OF RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUTON DURING THE YEAR 1948.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>						<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8. Syphilitis Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav., etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
16. Cancer of all other Sites	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
18. Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	12	15
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	19	34
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
24. Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
35. Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
36. All other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	14	18
TOTALS						100	111

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941-1948

Year	LIVE BIRTHS				STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births	
												Sepsis	Other	Total		
1941	19,940	330	16.5	7	20.8	222	11.1	7	7	14	42	—	—	—	—	
1942	18,190	332	17.8	9	27.1	202	11.1	8	7	15	46	—	1	1	3.0	
1943	17,480	319	18.2	12	36.3	192	10.9	7	5	12	38	—	—	—	—	
1944	17,590	353	20.1	10	27.5	204	11.6	9	8	17	48	—	1	1	2.8	
1945	17,250	293	16.9	8	26.6	174	10.1	1	4	5	17	—	—	—	—	
1946	17,630	340	19.3	7	20.2	178	10.2	4	3	7	21	—	1	1	2.9	
1947	18,110	364	20.1	10	26.7	202	11.2	6	4	10	27	—	1	1	2.7	
1948	18,600	339	18.2	10	28.7	211	11.3	8	6	14	41	—	—	—	—	

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

						<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1-</i>	<i>3-</i>	<i>5-</i>	<i>10-</i>	<i>25-</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	4	12	4	2	25
Whooping cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	12	17	17	1	1	52
Ac. poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ac. poliioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	11	17	34	9	2	74
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted in England and Wales) ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ...						5	26	39	64	14	11	159

The table above shows the incidence of infectious diseases during the year under review. Whooping cough and Measles were rather prevalent but it is satisfactory that no case of Diphtheria was notified.

It will be noticed that there were no deaths from infectious diseases during 1948.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

<i>Age periods</i>		<i>New cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 years ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " ...	...	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 " ...	...	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
20 " ...	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " ...	...	2	4	1	—	1	2	—	—
35 " ...	...	2	2	—	1	—	2	1	—
45 " ...	...	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
55 " ...	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards ...	...	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	...	9	15	4	2	8	5	2	1

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1948.

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.

37 samples taken from the Main supplies throughout the District have been Bacteriologically examined and the results have been satisfactory.

Samples taken from the shallow well at Sharpenhoe Council houses continue to produce unsatisfactory results and the slow progress being made to give effect to the scheme for the extension of the Main is disquieting. The position is kept under continual observation and the Council's Surveyor regularly supplies main water to the tank erected on the site. The householders are advised to boil water taken from the well when required for drinking.

Private Water Supplies.

Samples for Bacteriological examination were obtained from eight private sources, six of which proved to be satisfactory. The supplies at Oakwell Park, Thorn, and at Manor Farm and Cottages, Lower Sundon, were found to contain *Bacillus Coli* and the owners of these supplies have been advised on methods of chlorination and on the alternative of causing all water drawn from these sources, when required for drinking, to be boiled.

The use of an arsenical weedkiller at the Sundon Switching Station appeared to be a factor responsible for a case of illness amongst the staff. A sample of water taken from one of the sources on the premises on being Chemically examined showed an extremely minute trace of arsenic, one part in 250,000,000 parts of water. The Laboratory Director observed that "a potable water should be entirely free from Arsenic, the amount present on this occasion is so extremely small that we do not think it would be injurious."

Its presence however is significant and there is the possibility that the amount present was higher soon after the date of spraying and has since been reduced by the regular pumping of the well.

In connection with this investigation a sample was also taken from the well supply at a nearby dwelling house. In this case the Chemical result was quite satisfactory but the Bacteriologist's report indicated the presence of *Bacillus Coli*. This result further emphasises the need for expediting the extension of the main water supply to the village of Chalton.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Barton and Sundon Sewage disposal Works.

The inadequacy of the treatment here continues to give rise to complaints and in my opinion the need for replacing this plant with works of adequate capacity and of modern design is a matter of great urgency.

Ditches.

These have been cleansed at regular intervals and the men normally employed on cesspool emptying have assisted in this work during the Summer and Autumn.

Cesspool Emptying.

During the year 3,788 cesspools were emptied comprising 7,655 loads. There are four 750 gallon capacity cesspool emptiers in service and a reserve vehicle for emergency purposes.

Approximately half the cesspools in the district are emptied at regular intervals and the remainder as the demand arises. There is no limit placed on the number of times a cesspool shall be emptied during the year.

The demands made upon this service steadily increase and very soon five vehicles will be required in full-time service to maintain satisfactory conditions.

With Agriculture making use of every available acre of land it is becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of the contents of cesspool emptiers and the possibilities of "composting" or discharging into sewers are being investigated.

Whereas cesspool emptiers will always be required to clear cesspools at isolated houses it appears to be most unsatisfactory and for that matter insanitary, to have to resort to such a method of drainage disposal especially where houses are disposed 20 or more to the acre such as obtains at Slip End and Tebworth or 8 or more to the acre as at Warden Hill, Kensworth and Studham.

It costs £1,200 to put a cesspool emptier into service and this fact in addition to the high cost of constructing cesspools which have to have at least 50 feet of drainage and the difficulty of disposal of cesspool emptier contents, makes it imperative that sewerage systems be made available as a matter of urgency.

1. (iii) PONDS, WATERCOURSES, ETC.

The position with respect to ponds continues to be a matter which is not entirely satisfactory. Responsibility for the condition of ponds rests with the landowner or Parish Councils despite the fact that it is the Highway Authority which in many cases uses these ponds for draining the carriageway and cause such conditions as give rise to a Nuisance. However, the Highway Authority has no jurisdiction over ponds. The same position relates to ditches but the position with respect to these was dealt with fully in my last Annual Report. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the Authority using ponds and ditches should be held responsible for maintaining them in a condition which does not give rise to a Nuisance.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers Lea and Great Ouse Catchment Boards supervise the condition of rivers and streams throughout the district and every assistance is given by one Authority to the other to maintain a satisfactory condition in all such watercourses.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The conversion of privy middens and pail closets into water closets is proceeding as fast as builders and materials are available to effect these improvements. These works are usually carried out in conjunction with general repairs and other improvements required to satisfy the standard of fitness which has been adopted by the Rural Districts in the County and conforms generally to the requirements of the Housing Act 1936 and the Public Health Act 1936.

3. (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse.

At the beginning of the year two-fifths of the district was being collected every seventeen days and the remainder monthly. By the end of the year the collection of house refuse was taking place twice per month in every parish. Having regard to the fact that during the year the men's working week was reduced from 47 hours spread over $5\frac{1}{2}$ days to 44 spread over 5 days the steady improvement in the frequency of refuse collection can be regarded as a very satisfactory achievement.

A request occasionally arises from a parish for a weekly refuse collection. It has been pointed out in these instances that refuse collection in scattered agricultural areas is a much more difficult operation and therefore correspondingly costlier than in the streets of built-up areas. The Council's vehicles traverse an average of $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles collecting and disposing of a load of refuse whereas figures obtained from Urban areas establish a distance of only 5 miles.

There are now two 11 cub. yard and one 7 cub. yard capacity, side loading vehicles in operation. Three driver-loaders and four loaders are employed on them.

Refuse Disposal.

There are three refuse tips in the district and a system of partially controlled tipping obtains at each of them.

In one instance land adjacent to a farm house and its buildings is being reclaimed for ultimate agricultural use and conditions there indicate the possibilities of tipping refuse near dwelling houses without causing a Nuisance.

D.D.T. tip dressing is used from time to time on the tips and Rodent Control is carried out at frequent intervals.

Salvage.

The collection of salvage improved during the year but appeared to reach its peak in Mid-Summer.

The demand for bottles ceased almost without notice in October and the £50 income from this source will be missed.

It is interesting to note that the income from salvage is nearly double that of the previous year and income from paper sales is up £150. Baling of paper costs, etc., have to be deducted from these figures, but when it is borne in mind that the major part of the debit account is paid in wages for paper baling to drivers and their mates who are "grounded" when their vehicles break down and have to wait a few days for replacement parts or when major repairs are being carried out, it is reasonable to claim, that at least a half of the income is profitable.

The following is a summary of the income received from the sale of materials, etc.:—

	1947	1948
Waste Paper ...	£155 5 5½	£307 4 0
Textiles ...	8 5 0	13 8 9
Bones ...	3 8 6	5 0
Scrap Iron (Ferrous)	12 6 3	48 12 6
Non-Ferrous Metal...	6 13 9	3 11 3
Bottles, Jars, etc. ...	45 10 6	55 10 0
	<hr/> £231 9 5½ <hr/>	<hr/> £428 11 6 <hr/>

3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, etc., carried out during the year 1948.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	80
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	31
Refuse	...	...	...	37
Water Supply	...	...	...	97
Miscellaneous and re-inspections	...	...	...	35
Cleansing Services	...	...	...	317

NUISANCES.

Premises	...	...	...	110
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	...	13
Disinfestations	...	...	...	22
Animals	...	...	...	21
Accumulations, deposits, etc.	...	...	...	21
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous and re-inspections	...	...	...	96

SANITATION OF SPECIAL PREMISES.

Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	1
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	36
Grocers Shops	...	...	...	11
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	10
Knackers Yards	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	5
Cinemas	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4

Carried forward ... 958

FOOD.

Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	34
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	9
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	30
Cowshed and Dairy Inspections	...	...	...	...	78
Sediment Tests	...	...	...	...	199
Churn Rinsings	...	...	...	...	17
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	36
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	9

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Investigations	...	...	...	...	30
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	38
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	2

GENERAL.

Petroleum	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	19
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	6

HOUSING.

Overcrowding Investigations	...	...	...	55
Miscellaneous and Informal	...	...	...	86

TOTAL ... 1,623

3. (iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Subsequent to taking informal action regarding dirty conditions in a general stores at Kensworth the shop was closed and later converted into two dwellinghouses. The shopkeeper in this case was an old lady over eighty years of age with failing sight.

Informal action was also sufficient to have effected a marked improvement in the standard of cleanliness of a shop at Toddington.

3. (v) CAMPING SITES.

There is one site in the district licensed under Section 269 (1) of the Public Health Act 1936.

By the end of the year there were 25 licences permitting the use, etc., of Moveable Dwellings in the district. This type of accommodation is being resorted to by increasing numbers of people especially young married couples. Generally the caravans are maintained in a satisfactory condition, but some types, particularly old buses, are difficult to weatherproof. Where damp conditions exist informal notices are served on the user requesting abatement.

3. (vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The smoke Nuisance continued to arise at the Government Training Centre, Sundon Park, until the boiler chimneys were extended and an improved quality of fuel used. The Ministry of Works representatives were met on two occasions and subsequently the necessary improvements were effected.

Dust Emission.

The Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works is kept informed of any excessive emission of dust from the Cement Works in the district. The position in this respect appeared to be better as the fuel position improved and the dust extraction plant was brought up to the pre-war standard of efficiency.

3. (vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no such baths in the area.

3. (viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of Council houses found to be infested	...	4
„ „ disinested ...	...	4
No. of other houses found to be infested	...	9
„ „ disinested ...	...	9

Disinfestation is carried out by one of the following methods: (a) Fumigation by Thermatox, (b) D.D.T. fumigators, (c) Blowlamp followed by spraying with an insecticide containing D.D.T. The spraying is repeated ten days after first treatment.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	110
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	110
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	93
(5) Number of dwelling-houses found to be satisfactory ...	17

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	88
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(1a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	52
(2a) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices	42

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(3) Number of unfit dwelling-houses demolished	2

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | — |

Improvement to Dwelling Houses.

In those parishes where sewers are available steps are being taken by informal procedure to effect the conversion of earth closets into water closets, improve existing water closet accommodation, provide indoor sinks with water laid on, food stores where reasonably practicable, etc.

In many cases existing closets are distances varying from 20 feet to 80 feet from the houses and where rebuilding is warranted the new erections are sited against the rear walls of the houses if practicable or otherwise as near as possible. By doing so every care is exercised to ensure that the free access of light is not impeded.

Apart from the advantage of having a W.C. near the dwelling-houses, where they are erected against the rear main walls they tend to provide a little exclusion or privacy which was unknown previously where a yard was used in common to several houses.

4. HOUSING ACT 1936....PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

During the year the Council rehoused 149 families and as some of these had earned points for Overcrowding the extent of the abatement of overcrowding can be viewed with a measure of satisfaction. Eleven new cases of overcrowding were investigated during the year.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Attention has been specially directed to the places and methods of production and for that purpose 78 inspections have been carried out at the time of milk production chiefly between 7.0 a.m. and 9.0 a.m. The producers which on previous inspections were found not to be dairyminded received most attention. Attention is drawn to any contravention of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders and confirmed within a day or two by letter.

Whereas many of these producers would effect some improvement as a result of such inspections it is not possible to state that such improvements were always maintained. The "Dairyminded" producer appears to produce milk without effort obviously due to consistently good methods whereas the dairyman without method always appears to be struggling against insurmountable difficulties.

During the past few years and again in 1948 it became quite clear that the National Milk Testing Scheme had little good influence upon bad producers. On the contrary, I found on many occasions that producers who contravened the Milk and Dairies Order could produce Classification "A" certificates through the National Milk Testing Scheme. Some of these producers managed to effect good cooling of their milk through using deep well water and it became obvious that the test to which their milk was submitted would be satisfied provided the milk was well and truly cooled.

The uncertainty with respect to the fixing of the "appointed day" under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 by which the control of conditions under which milk is produced passes from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture was of little help to Local Authorities administering the Milk and Dairies Order.

The following is a statement relating to Milk and Dairies Licences and Registrations at the end of 1948:—

(i)	"Tuberculin Tested" Milk Producers	...	39
(ii)	"Accredited" Milk Producers	...	14
(iii)	Ungraded Milk Producers	...	114
Total			167
(iv)	Retail Purveyors	...	22
(v)	Producer/Retailers included in (i) to (iii)		53

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

(vi)	Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers	...	1
(vii)	Pasteurised Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	1

Retailers Premises.

These generally maintain a satisfactory standard but in three instances it was found necessary to request the installation of improved appliances for the cleansing of bottles.

Churn Rinsings.

17 Churn Rinsings were bacteriologically examined and 10 of these provided counts of less than 60,000 per churn. The remainder were churns supplied to producers by Dairies outside the district. These results were discussed with the Officers responsible and check rinsings indicated the desired improvement.

Occasionally churns are delivered to producers which appear to have missed the cleansing process entirely and one wonders what happens in cases where an unsatisfactory churn (which may have contained ungraded milk) is deposited at a T.T. production farm. We know that the producer has an obligation to see that he uses thoroughly clean churns but should it be necessary to clean a churn twice. The shortage of fuel, labour (and time) make it extremely difficult for farmers to "make certain" where someone else should have done so.

Inspection and Supervision of Other Foods.

The following quantities of foods were voluntarily surrendered on being found to be unfit for human consumption.

Gelatine	...	...	1 lb.
Cake Mixture	...	...	13½ lb.
Ginger	...	...	3½ lb.
Baking Powder	...	...	4¼ lb.
Self-Raising Flour	...	...	3 lb.
Pilchards	...	...	7 lb.
Grape Fruit Marmalade	...	...	2 lb.
Beetroot (Tinned)	...	...	2½ lb.
Milk (Condensed)	...	...	3 tins (large).
Milk (Evaporated)	...	...	2 tins (15 ozs. each).
Fruit Salad	...	...	12½ lb.
Haricot Beans	...	...	42 lb.
Minced Beef	...	...	12 oz.
Corned Beef	...	...	7½ lb.
Kippers	...	...	28 lb.
Cod	...	...	6 stone.
Milk	...	...	14 gallons.
Cheese	...	...	20 lb.
Bacon	...	...	7 lb.
Stewing Steak	...	...	36 lb.
Peas	...	...	2 tins.
Baked Beans	...	...	4 tins (15½ ozs.).
Tomato Soup	...	...	3 tins (2 lbs. 2½ ozs.).
Potatoes	...	...	2 tins (2½ lbs. each).
Grapefruit	...	...	1 tin (2 lb.).
Apple Jelly	...	...	1 tin (1½ lb.).
Codfish	...	...	1 tin (15 ozs.).
Anchovy Paste	...	...	15 tins (2 ozs. each).
Salmon	...	...	1 tin.
Marmalade	...	...	4 tins (2 lbs. each).
Minced Beef	...	...	1 tin (12 ozs.).
Horseradish	...	...	1 bottle (6 ozs.).
Sauce	...	...	2 bottles (10 ozs. each).
Soya	...	...	84 lbs.
Tomatoes	...	...	24 tins (28 ozs. each).

This food was diverted for animal feeding when considered suitable for the purpose. The remainder was disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tips.

Cafes, Snack Bars, Fried Fish Shops, etc.

Ten inspections were carried out during the year. Conditions in Food Preparation rooms still leaves something to be desired although there appears to be signs of an appreciation of the elementary principles of hygiene.

All Fish and Chip fryers were encouraged by letter and verbally to use greaseproof paper for the initial wrapping of their products. Nothing is more disturbing than to enter these shops and find on the counters a pile of newspapers some sheets of which on examination appear to be dirty. Generally the response to the appeal made was good and doubtless the scarcity of greaseproof paper is the only factor responsible for these food suppliers resorting to less sterile paper.

ICE CREAM.

Seventeen samples were taken during the year. Eight of these were found to be unsatisfactory. Pre-packed ice cream always produced a good result. The street trader in unpacked ice cream was responsible for most of the failures. The continuous opening and closing of ice cream containers and biscuit tins in streets (during the dustiest time of the year) makes contamination inevitable. Failure on the part of the proprietor to keep these street barrows serviced with clean water and cloths is also an important factor.

Local Authorities will not rest assured with regard to this commodity until pre-packing is an accepted fact or otherwise imposed in the Ice Cream Trade.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's Rodent Operative pays regular visits to Refuse Tips and Sewage Disposal Works and twice during the year sewers were pre-baited and subsequently treated where necessary. Complaints are dealt with immediately they are received or as soon as practicable. Much of the Operative's time is spent on survey and preventive measures. It became evident during the year that unless Rodent Control is effectively unified between Local Authorities and County Agricultural Committees much of the work done will be wasted. Some Authorities employ Rodent Operatives, others do not. Some farmers have contracts with the County Pests Department, others have not. Some farmers and Agricultural Contractors take adequate precautions during threshing operations, others do not.

Either there must be unified control with sufficient staff to operate effectually or a resort to the pre-1943 Order days. With unified control there would be little need to increase the number of Operatives.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL,

Sanitary Inspector.

